

# ***SUPERFUND SITE UPDATE***

***R&H Oil Company, Inc. and  
Tropicana Energy Company, Inc.  
San Antonio, Texas***



June 6, 2000

## **EPA SEEKING RESPONSE ACTION APPROVAL**

### ***Site Background***

The R&H Oil Company, Inc. and the Tropicana Energy Company, Inc. sites are inactive industrial properties located approximately one mile west of I-35 in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The sites share a common fence boundary as well as similar type wastes. The sites are bordered to the north by an auto service center, to the south by the Missouri Pacific Railroad and residential and industrial facilities, to the East by Somerset Road and commercial and residential properties, and to the West by Kelly Air Force Base. There are six schools located within one mile of these sites.

The R&H Oil site is an abandoned used oil refinery. It was used for various petroleum refining operations since approximately 1934, and has been abandoned since 1990. The property consists of 28 Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs), extensive refining equipment and piping, sumps, and three drums. There are approximately 73,000 gallons of hazardous substances located in the various containers on the property. Heavy metals including arsenic, lead, and nickel were detected in containerized materials. In addition, there are approximately 2,180 square feet of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) on various equipment.

The Tropicana Energy property is a fuel blending facility that was abandoned in a bankruptcy proceeding in 1992. This property was used for petroleum refining and/or storage since the 1940's. This facility consists of 11 ASTs and piping, 18

empty drums, and 9 drums (approximately 184 gallons) of hazardous substances. In addition, monitoring wells on the facility were found to contain free product including hazardous substances that have been assumed to be migrating from the R&H Oil facility. No ACM has been identified on this facility.

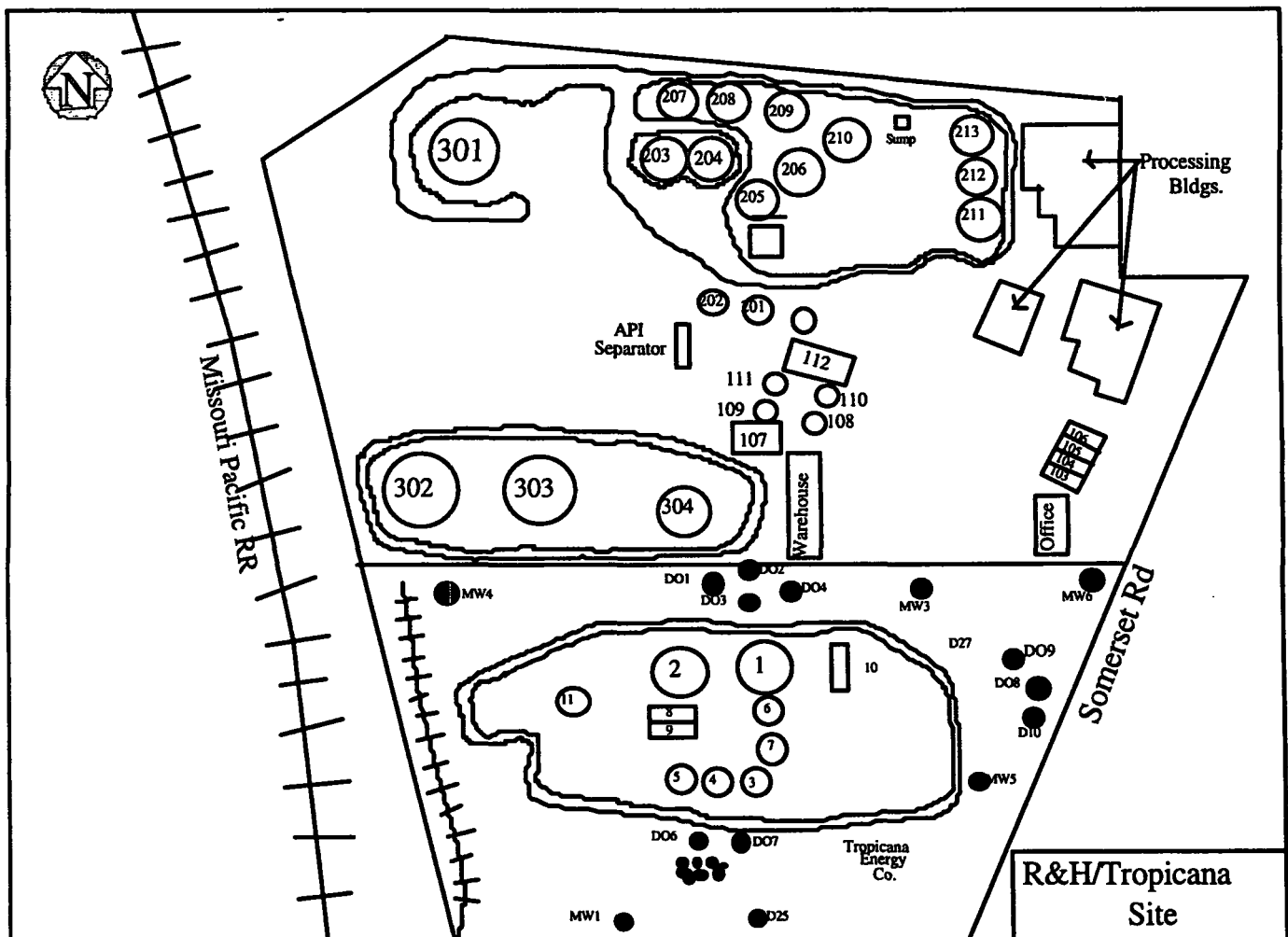
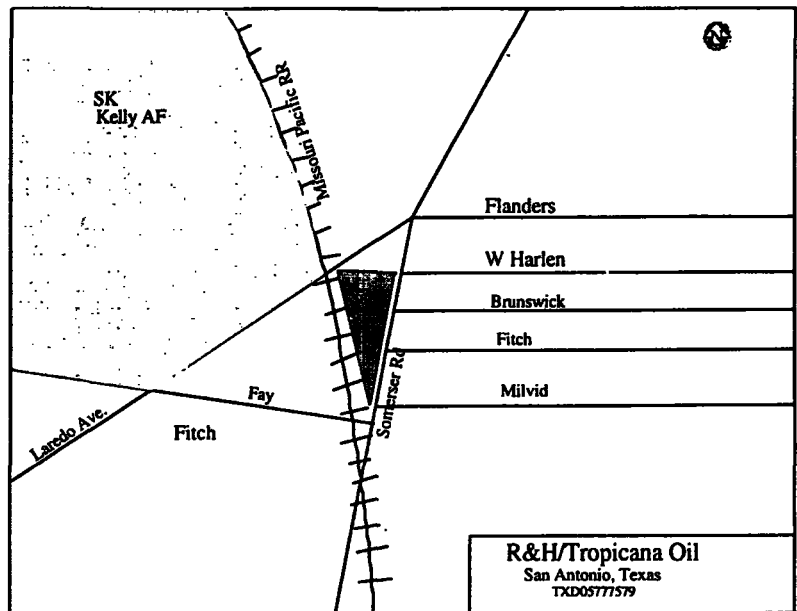
### ***Recent Activities***

In March 1998, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) requested assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the R&H Oil facility. The Tropicana Energy facility is located adjacent to the R&H Oil facility, and EPA determined that an assessment of both properties was appropriate. The EPA and TNRCC conducted an integrated assessment of both facilities in July 1998. The purpose of the assessment was to determine the contents and volume of materials located within the various containers, as well as evaluate any soil contamination. Material suspected of containing asbestos was also sampled.

An evaluation of surface soils on both properties showed some minor contamination but did not appear to be significant. Further investigations of the surface soils will be necessary following the removal of the ASTs.

The city of San Antonio relies on water from the Edwards Aquifer. Available information indicates that drinking water wells in the vicinity of the site





are at least 1,300 feet below ground surface. The likelihood of impact to this drinking water source from this site is remote.

In August 1999, a follow-up asbestos inspection was conducted. The inspection revealed that the asbestos was confined to the R&H Oil Company, Inc. property. Approximately 2,180 square feet of asbestos is expected to require abatement prior to any on-site activities.

### ***What Happens Next***

If funding for this response action is approved, it is anticipated that response action could begin prior to the end of this year.

### ***Additional Information***

If you have questions about the activities at the R&H Oil Company, Inc. or the Tropicana Energy Company, Inc. sites, please contact:

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Information can also be accessed via the U.S. EPA Internet Homepage at:

U.S. EPA Headquarters: <http://www.epa.gov>  
U.S. EPA Region 6: <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6>  
U.S. EPA Region 6 Superfund Division:  
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/6sf.htm>

If you or someone you know would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive future information about the R&H Oil Company, Inc. or Tropicana Energy Company, Inc. sites, please call 1-800-533-3508. Leave your name and address, as well as the site name, and we'll add you to the mailing list.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
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1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

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